

Claims

1. Structured particulate systems comprising active, organic, solid component(s) in a matrix in a weight ratio of 1 : 99 to 99 : 1 and wherein the active, organic, solid component(s) preferably is selected from one or more of the components from the group consisting of oleanolic acid, ursolic acid, folic acid, policosanol, phytosterols, mean weight diameter of the particles of the structured particulate system ranges from 25 to 1500 microns.
2. Structured particulate system according to claim 1 wherein this system displays a loose bulk density of 0.1 to 1.1, preferably 0.3 to 0.6 Kg/l.
3. Structured particulate system according to claims 1 or 2 wherein the mean eight diameter ranges from 50 to 400, more preferably from 60 to 300 microns.
4. Structured particulate system according to claims 1 - 3 wherein the weight ratio between active component and matrix ranges from 80 : 20 to 20 : 80, preferably from 60 : 40 to 40 : 60.
5. Structured particulate system according to claims 1 to 4 wherein the active, organic, solid component has a discrete particle size within the total structured particulate system of 2 to 275, preferably 5 to 250, most preferably 7 to 200 microns.

6. Structured particulate system according to claim 1 to 5 wherein the active organic solid component is a nutritionally active component.

7. Structured particulate system according to claim 6 wherein the nutritionally active component is a component that improves the oral properties of a food product, or the dispersability of the active component in a food.

8. Structured particulate system according to claims 1 to 7 wherein the matrix is edible and is selected from the group consisting of polysaccharides, modified polysaccharides, sugars, gums, thickeners, stabilisers, syrups, flours, starches, dextrose, maltodextrins and celluloses.

9. Method for improving the oral properties and / or the homogeneity of an organic, solid, active component in a food product by incorporating in the food product an effective amount, preferably 0.01 to 50wt % ,preferably 1 to 30 wt % on food product of the structured particulate system as formulated in claims 1 to 8.

10. Food products, in particular selected from the group consisting of margarine, spreads, baked goods, extruded goods, confections, ice-creams and dairy products containing an effective amount of the structured particulated system according to claims 1 to 8.

11. Process for preparing a structured particulate system as defined in claims 1 to 8 wherein:

(i) a solid, organic active component is mixed with a matrix into a homogeneous powder

(ii) a solvent, preferably water is added to part of the powder obtained to dissolve the matrix resulting in an suspension of the active component in water

(iii) part of the powder resulting from step (i) is suspended in the expansion chamber of a fluid bed

(iv) the suspension resulting from (ii) is sprayed onto the suspended powder of step (iii) in the expansion chamber and dried rapidly by a heating medium, preferably heated air.